

Introduction

The battle of Harrah was a bitterly disastrous and painful event that took place in 63 A.H. (682 C.E.) during the reign of Yazīd b. Muʿawiyah between the Syrian troops and the people of Medina. In Arabic lexicon, Harrah means a rocky and rough terrain that is difficult to pass.^{[1](#)}

This event has been named as such because the invasion of the state army of Shām (Syria) took place from the east of Medina, i.e., from the rocky region of the city.^{[2](#)}

It has also been called “The Battle of Harrahtu Wāqim” in some historical sources since the rocky terrains around Medina have been extensive and protracted, covering various sections of its surrounding among which only the rocky terrains of the east side have been called “Harrahtu Wāqim”.^{[3](#)}

The historians have recorded the distance between Harrahtu Wāqim and Masjid al-Nabī as to be one mīl.^{[4](#)}

¹. Ibn Manzūr, Lisān al-ʿArab; Zubaydī, Tāj al-ʿArūs, Ibn ʿAbd al-Haq Baghdādī, Marʿasid al-Iʿtilāʾ, under Harar.

². Ibn Qutayba, ʿUyūn al-Akḥbār, vol. 1, p. 238; Al-Maʿrif, p. 240; Ibn Kathīr, Al-Nahya, vol. 1, p. 365; Ibn Athar, Jamiʿ al-Usūl, vol. 10, p. 480.

³. Samḥūdī, Wafīʾ al-Wafīʾ, vol. 1, p. 124; Ibn Khallikān, Wafayāt al-Aʿyān, vol. 6, p. 276.

⁴. According to astronomers one mīl has been calculated as three thousand dhirʿ (cubit = ~ 50 cm) and according to traditionists as four thousand dhirʿ which is equal to 2 km.

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